UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Gallagher

FROM : B. H. Cooke

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, 11/22/63; DALLAS, TEXAS

DATE: 11/19/75

1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Jenkins
1 - Mr. Gallagher
1 - Mr. O'Connell
1 - Mr. Cooke
1 - Mr. Nettles
1 - Mr. Bassett
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Wannall

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On 11/11/75, an article by staff writer Norman Kempster appeared in the "Washington Star" newspaper concerning the House of Representatives' Judiciary Subcommittee inquiry into the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy. (Copy of article is attached).

In discussing the letter Lee Harvey Oswald left at the Dallas Office for Special Agent James P. Hosty, Jr., the reporter states "The FBI withheld information about the letter from the Warren Commission. The bureau confirmed reports about the letter only after they appeared in newspapers earlier this year."

The Director asked about this paragraph "What does the reporter refer to here?"

REC 61 62-107164-7423

The reporter apparently assumes that information about the letter was handled by the Bureau according to established procedures, and a decision was made to officially withhold it from the Warren Commission. The internal inquiry into the existence of the letter has not established that this was the case. No evidence has been developed which would indicate an "institutional cover-up."

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Regarding the statement about the Bureau confirming reports about the letter only after they appeared in newspapers, the truth of the matter is that the newspaper reports and the Bureau's confirmation occurred at the same time. The initial newspaper article about the letter, which appeared in the "Dallas Times Herald," also contained the Director's statement regarding the internal inquiry into its existence. FBIHQ had no knowledge of the letter until informed of the allegations regarding it by the representative of the "Dallas Times Herald" in July, 1975. No previous articles had been written about it.

ACTION: For information.

ENCLOSURE

Enc. WEN:sls (11)

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